

## Joseph Hillings

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### Senate Page for a Week

Joseph Hillings remembers volunteering to be a Senate Page during recess in the 83rd Congress (1953–1955).

*Interview recorded October 21, 2015*

**HILLINGS:** One recess period in the House, the Senate was not in recess, and a couple of the Senate Pages wanted to go home for the holiday. So, my roommate from northern California, Dudley Knill, and I signed up and we went over and we were Senate Pages temporarily for a week during that vacation period because we weren't going home to California. And we wanted the experience of being able to sit over on the Senate on the rostrum and hear the Senators snap their thumbs, so that you could go over and pick up whatever they wanted.

**ETHIER:** So, how did being a Senate Page for a little while differ from being a House Page?

**HILLINGS:** Well, it was much different kind of a—the House, the House was much more regimented in a sense. I mean you sat on the Page bench if you were a bench Page, of course, as a telephone Page, I didn't, and as a bench Page you sat on the bench and they had an electronic system where if the Members were in session and they wanted a Page to do something, they would press the button by the side of the chair where they were sitting in the House Chamber. In the Senate side, they'd just snap their fingers or they'd point at you or whatever and you'd get up off the rostrum. On the Senate side you sat right around the rostrum and you were on-call at that particular point whenever Senators wanted you.